





Master Potato Growers of West Virginia for 1939 view the results of their work. Upper left: Wilbur Moore of Mill Point, Pocahontas county, wearing a crown of potatoes and displaying some of his choice spuds. Lower left: Roy W. Godley, Agricultural Counselor for Monongahela West Penn Public Service Company; Robert L. Hammer, Randolph county agricultural agent; and J. Earle Romine, Master Potato Grower in Randolph, looking over his equipment for putting potatoes up in 15-lb bags with "Upper Ten" label. Upper right: Part of potato exhibit at Randolph County Grain and Potato Show. Lower right: L. M. Beeghley of Brandonville, Master Potato Grower of Preston county.

viewed with each other during the past year in demonstrating the possibilities of potatoes as a cash crop in a project sponsored cooperatively by the Upper Monongahela Valley Association, the Monongahela West Penn Public Service Company, and the Agricultural Extension Service of West Virginia University in each of the counties; the Preston County Potato Growers' Association in that county; and the Daily Inter-Mountain newspaper in Randolph.

Fields of growers cooperating in the project were inspected for freedom from weeds and disease and insect injury and for vigor of growth. Acreage and yields were recorded, and the methods used in production including kind of seed used, maintenance of organic matter in the soil and fertilization, and disease and insect control were carefully checked. Methods of harvesting and marketing the crop were also considered, with a view to determining who was entitled to recognition as the Master Potato Grower in each county.

Awards Are Given Winners

Wilbur E. Moore of Mill Point, Pocahontas County; L. M. Beeghley

of Brandonville, Preston County; and J. Earle Romine of Beverly, Randolph county were first place winners and declared Master Potato Growers in their respective counties. Each received a cash reward of \$25. The Randolph county winner also received a silver loving cup provided by the daily Inter-Mountain newspaper of Elkins

Hevener Dilley of Huntersville and George V. Hannah, of Arbovale placed second and third in Pocahontas county. Roy Durst of Amboy and Charles C. Knapp of Terra Alta were second and third in Preston, and second and third place winners were D. P. Linger and Son of Huttonsville and Leslie Vanscoy of Montrose.

The Master Potato Grower project was instituted for the first time last season in West Virginia with a three-fold purpose: (1) to bring to the attention of growers recommended practices in production and marketing, (2) to give recognition to growers doing a good job, and (3) to demonstrate the possibilities of supplementing the cash income of farmers in the state by growing potatoes for market.

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